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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

Juergen Klenk et al.

Serial No. 09/___,___   Group Art Unit (unassigned)

Filed January 17, 2002   Examiner (unassigned)

For SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR COMPUTER
    BASED SEARCHING FOR RELEVANT TEXTS

Box New Utility Patent Application
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the first examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below. A clean copy of the amended claims is attached.

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Claim 7 (Amended). The method according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein a parser is employed, to create the graph in step b).

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Claim 8 (Amended). The method of [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 6], wherein a semantic network generator is employed to create the graph (30) in step b).

1   Claim 9 (Amended). The method of [any one of claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 3], wherein one graph

2   is generated for each sentence in the text and wherein the characterizing strength (C) is

3   calculated for each sentence by performing the steps b) through e).

1   Claim 11 (Amended). The method of [any one of claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 3], wherein the graph

2   is evolved in step c) by replacing auxiliary verbs with main verbs.

1   Claim 13 (Amended). The method of [any one of claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 3], wherein the graph

2   is evolved in step c) by leaving out verbs.

1   Claim 14 (Amended). The method of [any one of claims] <u>claim</u> 1 [to 3], wherein the

2   subject of the sentence is identified and placed centrally in the graph to produce a tree-like

3   graph structure in which the subject is at the root, prior to carrying out step d).

1   Claim 16 (Amended). The method of claim 2 [or 15], wherein the characterizing strength

2   (C) of the text is an average calculated by

3   •   adding the characterizing strengths (C) of all sentences of the respective text, and

4   •   then dividing the result of the previous step by the number of sentences.

1   Claim 22 (Amended). An information retrieval system comprising a system as claimed in

2   [any of claims] <u>claim</u> 17 [to 21].

1   Claim 23 (Amended). A server computer system comprising a system as claimed in [any of

2   claims] <u>claim</u> 17 [to 21].

1   Claim 24 (Amended). A client computer system comprising a system as claimed in [any of

2   claims] <u>claim</u> 17 [to 21].

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REMARKS

The application has been amended to make multiply dependent claims dependent on a single preceding claim. Please calculate the filing fee based on this preliminary amendment. An examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Clean Copy of Amended Claims

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Claim 7 (Amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein a parser is employed, to create the graph in step b).

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Claim 8 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein a semantic network generator is employed to create the graph (30) in step b).

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Claim 9 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein one graph is generated for each sentence in the text and wherein the characterizing strength (C) is calculated for each sentence by performing the steps b) through e).

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Claim 11 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the graph is evolved in step c) by replacing auxiliary verbs with main verbs.

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Claim 13 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the graph is evolved in step c) by leaving out verbs.

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Claim 14 (Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the subject of the sentence is identified and placed centrally in the graph to produce a tree-like graph structure in which the subject is at the root, prior to carrying out step d).

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Claim 16 (Amended). The method of claim 2, wherein the characterizing strength (C) of the text is an average calculated by
• adding the characterizing strengths (C) of all sentences of the respective text, and
• then dividing the result of the previous step by the number of sentences.

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Claim 22 (Amended). An information retrieval system comprising a system as claimed in

2   claim 17.

1   Claim 23 (Amended). A server computer system comprising a system as claimed in claim

2   17.

1   Claim 24 (Amended). A client computer system comprising a system as claimed in claim

2   17.